

T -odd correlations in radiative $K_{\ell 3}^+$ decays and chiral perturbation theory

Eike H. Müller^{1 a}, Bastian Kubis^{1 b}, and Ulf-G. Meißner^{1,2 c}

¹ Helmholtz-Institut für Strahlen- und Kernphysik, Universität Bonn, Nußallee 14–16, D-53115 Bonn, Germany

² Forschungszentrum Jülich, Institut für Kernphysik (Theorie), D-52425 Jülich, Germany

Abstract. The charged kaon decay channel $K_{\ell 3\gamma}^+$ allows for studies of direct CP violation, possibly due to non-standard mechanisms, with the help of T -odd correlation variables. In order to be able to extract a CP -violating signal from experiment, it is necessary to understand all possible standard model phases that also produce T -odd asymmetries. We complement earlier studies by considering strong interaction phases in hadronic structure functions that appear at higher orders in chiral perturbation theory, and we compare our findings to other potential sources of asymmetries.

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1 Introduction

The decays of charged kaons may serve as an excellent system to study direct CP violation in particle physics. As this is expected to be totally negligible in particular for semileptonic kaon decays within the standard model, the investigation of such channels may even give access to non-standard CP -violating mechanisms, or limits thereon.

As the simplest CP -violating observable, namely the charge asymmetry of the decay widths $\Gamma(K^+ \rightarrow f) - \Gamma(K^- \rightarrow \bar{f})$, can only be non-vanishing in the presence of at least two weak amplitudes with different re-scattering phases [1], it has been suggested to resort to T -odd correlations in order to test CP in the context of semileptonic charged kaon decays. In the decays $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu$ ($K_{\mu 3}$) or $K^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu \gamma$ ($K_{\mu 2\gamma}$) (see e.g. Refs. [2–10] and references therein) the transverse muon polarization is a suitable observable that is odd under time reversal.

In experiments that do not have access to the lepton polarization, however, a T -odd correlation can still be constructed as a triple scalar product ξ of three independent momenta in decay channels with at least four particles in the final state, such as $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^- \ell^+ \nu_\ell$ ($K_{\ell 4}$) [11] or $K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 \ell^+ \nu_\ell \gamma$ ($K_{\ell 3\gamma}$), which we (re-)investigate in this article. Violation of T -invariance in such channels will manifest itself in ξ -odd contributions to the differential width $d\Gamma/d\xi$, or in the asymmetry $N(\xi > 0) - N(\xi < 0)$. Experiments studying this effect in $K_{\ell 3\gamma}$ have started producing results recently [12–14] but still lack the necessary precision to test theoretical predictions.

An investigation of the T -odd asymmetries in $K_{\ell 3\gamma}$ that arise in extensions of the standard model has first been performed in Ref. [15]. In principle, if both the decay of the K^+ and its charge conjugate mode for the K^- are measured and their asymmetries appropriately combined, these effects due to complex non-standard couplings can be unambiguously extracted. However, if only the K^+ or the K^- channel are considered, there are also contributions to the asymmetry from within the standard model due to final state interaction phases, which have to be accounted for when determining the part attributed to new physics. The effects of photon loops that emerge as rescattering effects of the photon and the charged lepton have been investigated in Ref. [16]. Another source, however, which so far seems to have been completely ignored, are phases due to imaginary parts in the (hadronic) structure functions in $K_{\ell 3\gamma}$. These structure functions can be calculated systematically in the framework of chiral perturbation theory (ChPT), and they were shown to be purely real at leading (non-trivial) order ($\mathcal{O}(p^4)$) [17], but as it was pointed out in Ref. [18] (for the corresponding neutral kaon decay mode), imaginary parts arise beyond leading order, starting at $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$. There is no *a priori* reason why these should be neglected compared to electromagnetic phases; in fact, although of relatively high order in the chiral expansion, they lack the suppression by $\alpha \sim 1/137$.

In this article, we will clarify the situation by a thorough investigation of the imaginary parts of the structure functions in ChPT. We lay out some necessary formalism in Sect. 2. We present our main results, the analytic forms of the leading cut contributions as well as numerical results for the T -odd asymmetries, in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4 we compare our findings to the asymmetries

^a Electronic address: emueller@itkp.uni-bonn.de

^b Electronic address: kubis@itkp.uni-bonn.de

^c Electronic address: meissner@itkp.uni-bonn.de

due to photon loops and make some comments on the size and structure of beyond-the-standard-model contributions. Section 5 contains our conclusions. Some more technical aspects are relegated to the appendices.

2 Phenomenology of $K_{\ell 3\gamma}^+$ decays

We briefly review the phenomenology of the decay

$$K^+(p) \rightarrow \pi^0(p') \ell^+(p_\ell) \nu_\ell(p_\nu) \gamma(q) \quad [K_{\ell 3\gamma}^+], \quad \ell = e, \mu, \quad (1)$$

which has been done in more detail for the corresponding decay of neutral kaons in Ref. [18].

2.1 Matrix element

The $K_{\ell 3\gamma}^+$ matrix element can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} T(K_{\ell 3\gamma}^+) &= \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} e V_{us}^* \epsilon^\mu(q)^* \\ &\times \left[(V_{\mu\nu} - A_{\mu\nu}) \bar{\nu}(p_\nu) \gamma^\nu (1 - \gamma_5) \ell(p_\ell) \right. \\ &\left. + \frac{F_\nu}{2p_\ell q} \bar{\nu}(p_\nu) \gamma^\nu (1 - \gamma_5) (m_\ell - \not{p}_\ell - \not{q}) \gamma_\mu \ell(p_\ell) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where the hadronic tensors $V_{\mu\nu}$ and $A_{\mu\nu}$ are given by

$$\begin{aligned} I_{\mu\nu} &= i \int d^4x e^{iqx} \langle \pi^0(p') | T \{ V_\mu^{\text{em}}(x) I_\nu^{\text{had}}(0) \} | K^+(p) \rangle, \\ I &= V, A, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} V_\nu^{\text{had}} &= \bar{s} \gamma_\nu u, \quad A_\nu^{\text{had}} = \bar{s} \gamma_\nu \gamma_5 u, \\ V_\mu^{\text{em}} &= (2\bar{u} \gamma_\mu u - \bar{d} \gamma_\mu d - \bar{s} \gamma_\mu s) / 3, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

whereas F_ν is the $K_{\ell 3}^+$ vector correlator

$$F_\nu = \langle \pi^0(p') | V_\nu^{\text{had}} | K^+(p) \rangle. \quad (5)$$

The tensors $V_{\mu\nu}$ and $A_{\mu\nu}$ satisfy the electromagnetic Ward identities

$$q^\mu V_{\mu\nu} = F_\nu, \quad q^\mu A_{\mu\nu} = 0, \quad (6)$$

which guarantee gauge invariance of the amplitude (2).

The $K_{\ell 3\gamma}^+$ amplitude can be decomposed into (separately gauge invariant) inner bremsstrahlung (IB) and structure dependent (SD) parts. According to Low's theorem [19], the IB terms, which comprise the part of the amplitude non-vanishing for small photon momenta (and in particular the infrared divergent pieces), is given entirely in terms of the $K_{\ell 3}^+$ form factors f_+ , f_1 defined by

$$F_\nu(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(2p'_\nu f_+(t) + (p - p')_\nu f_1(t) \right) \quad (7)$$

with $t = (p - p')^2$. This splitting of the matrix element implies a corresponding splitting of the hadronic tensors $V_{\mu\nu}$ and $A_{\mu\nu}$. The decomposition of the vector correlator reads

$$V_{\mu\nu} = V_{\mu\nu}^{\text{IB}} + V_{\mu\nu}^{\text{SD}}, \quad (8)$$

where the IB piece is chosen such that

$$q^\mu V_{\mu\nu}^{\text{IB}} = F_\nu(t), \quad q^\mu V_{\mu\nu}^{\text{SD}} = 0. \quad (9)$$

$V_{\mu\nu}^{\text{IB}}$ can be shown [20] (see also Ref. [18] for a corresponding derivation for $K_{\ell 3\gamma}^0$, and Refs. [21, 22] for slightly different representations) to be given in terms of f_+ and f_1 as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\mu\nu}^{\text{IB}} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\frac{p_\mu}{pq} (2p'_\nu f_+(W^2) + W_\nu f_1(W^2)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{W_\mu}{qW} (2p'_\nu \Delta f_+ + W_\nu \Delta f_1) + g_{\mu\nu} f_1(t) \right], \\ \Delta f_i &= f_i(t) - f_i(W^2), \quad i = +, 1, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where $W = p - p' - q$. The structure dependent part can be expressed in terms of four scalar functions V_i , $i = 1 \dots 4$, in a basis of gauge invariant tensors according to

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\mu\nu}^{\text{SD}} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[V_1 (p'_\mu q_\nu - p'_\nu q_\mu g_{\mu\nu}) + V_2 (W_\mu q_\nu - qW_\nu g_{\mu\nu}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + V_3 (qW_\mu p'_\nu - p'_\nu qW_\mu g_{\mu\nu}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + V_4 (qW_\mu p'_\nu p'_\nu - p'_\nu qW_\mu p'_\nu) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

The axial correlator $A_{\mu\nu}$ consists of structure dependent parts only, and can also be expressed in terms of four scalar functions A_i , $i = 1 \dots 4$,

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\mu\nu} &= \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (A_1 p'^\rho q^\sigma + A_2 q^\rho W^\sigma) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \epsilon_{\mu\lambda\rho\sigma} p'^\lambda q^\rho W^\sigma \left(\frac{A_3}{M_K^2 - W^2} W_\nu + A_4 p'_\nu \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

(We use the convention $\epsilon_{0123} = +1$.) Note that in comparison to Refs. [17, 18], we have, for convenience, factored out the kaon pole explicitly in the definition of the structure function A_3 .

2.2 Kinematics

The functions V_i and A_i depend on three independent Mandelstam variables s , t , and u defined by

$$s = (p' + q)^2, \quad t = (p - p')^2, \quad u = (p - q)^2, \quad (13)$$

where $s + t + u = M_K^2 + M_\pi^2 + W^2$. The precise kinematic limits for these are given in Ref. [18]. In order to describe the full kinematics of the $K_{\ell 3\gamma}^+$ decay, two more variables are needed, e.g.

$$pp_e/M_K = E_e^*, \quad x = p_e q/M_K^2. \quad (14)$$

One often works in the rest frame of the decaying kaon.¹ In order to tame the infrared singularity for small photon energies E_γ^* , it is necessary to cut on this variable when calculating observables,

$$E_\gamma^* \geq E_\gamma^{\text{cut}}. \quad (15)$$

In addition, there is a near-singularity in the electron channel when x becomes small for collinear photon and positron momenta,

$$p_e q = x M_K^2 = E_\gamma^* \left(E_e^* - \sqrt{E_e^{*2} - m_e^2} \cos \theta_{e\gamma}^* \right), \quad (16)$$

therefore in this channel one also cuts on the angle

$$\theta_{e\gamma}^* \geq \theta_{e\gamma}^{\text{cut}}. \quad (17)$$

We use the “standard cuts” $E_\gamma^{\text{cut}} = 30$ MeV, $\theta_{e\gamma}^{\text{cut}} = 20^\circ$ most of the time in this work, except for Sect. 4.3 where we explicitly study the dependence of the T -odd asymmetry on these cuts.

2.3 The asymmetry A_ξ

The spin summed squared matrix element can be expressed in terms of the functions V_i , A_i , and the $K_{\ell 3}$ form factors f_+ , f_1 :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}^{-1} \sum_{\text{spins}} |T|^2 &= \sum_{f, f'} a_{ff'} f f' + \sum_{f, I} b_{fI} f \text{Re}\{I\} \\ &+ \xi \cdot \sum_{f, I} c_{fI} f \text{Im}\{I\} + \mathcal{O}(V_i^2, A_i^2, A_i V_j), \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f, f' &\in \{f_+, \delta f_+, f_1, \delta f_1\}, \quad \delta f_{+,1} \equiv \frac{M_K^2}{qW} \Delta f_{+,1}, \\ I &\in \{V_i, A_i\}, \quad i = 1 \dots 4, \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

and the T -odd variable ξ is given by²

$$\begin{aligned} \xi &= \epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} p^\mu q^\nu p_\ell^\alpha p'^\beta / M_K^4 \\ &\stackrel{\text{CMS}}{=} \mathbf{q} \cdot (\mathbf{p}_\ell \times \mathbf{p}') / M_K^3, \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where the last form refers to the center-of-mass (CMS) system for the decay, the kaon rest frame. The functions $a_{ff'}$, b_{fI} , c_{fI} are kinematical factors that depend on scalar products of the final particle momenta. We spell out the factors relevant for the ξ -odd part of the squared matrix element in Appendix C.1. Finally the normalization factor in (18) is

$$\mathcal{N} = 8\pi\alpha G_F^2 |V_{us}|^2 M_K^2. \quad (21)$$

¹ We label quantities in this frame by an upper index ‘*’.

² The sign of the definition (20) is opposite to Appendix B in Ref. [18], but agrees with the convention used in Refs. [15, 16]. We are grateful to V. V. Braguta for confirming this point.

The first part of the squared matrix element (18), which contains neither V_i nor A_i , only consists of inner bremsstrahlung and is the dominant part e.g. for the partial decay width. The other terms arise because of interference of the IB and SD pieces. It was found in Ref. [18] that these contributions are suppressed by two orders of magnitude compared to the IB² part in $K_{e3\gamma}^0$, and we find the same suppression in the decay described in this paper. Contributions of $\mathcal{O}(V_i^2, A_i^2, V_i A_j)$ are suppressed even further, which is why we neglect them. We remark that the kinematical factors that multiply f_1 , δf_1 , V_3 , and A_3 are suppressed by $(m_\ell/M_K)^2$; hence these terms can be dropped in the electron channel.

It is crucial to note that the imaginary parts of the functions V_i , A_i are always multiplied by ξ in (18).

We can compute the differential width $d\Gamma/d\xi$ with respect to ξ . As ξ^2 can be expressed in terms of scalar products of the final particle momenta, we can split the differential width into a T -even and a T -odd part,

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{d\xi} = \rho_{\text{even}} + \xi \cdot \rho_{\text{odd}}, \quad (22)$$

where ρ_{even} and ρ_{odd} only depend on scalar products of final particle momenta. To compare the relative size of both contributions it is convenient to define the asymmetry

$$A_\xi = \frac{N_+ - N_-}{N_+ + N_-} \quad \text{with} \quad N_\pm = \int_{\xi \gtrless 0} d\Gamma. \quad (23)$$

3 Imaginary parts and asymmetry in ChPT

3.1 ChPT up to $\mathcal{O}(p^4)$

The structure functions V_i and A_i have been evaluated in the framework of chiral perturbation theory in Ref. [17] up to $\mathcal{O}(p^4)$. For the axial amplitude the only contributions come from tree level diagrams with vertices from the Wess–Zumino–Witten anomalous Lagrangian [23, 24]

$$A_1 = -4A_2 = A_3 = -\frac{1}{2\pi^2 F^2}, \quad A_4 = 0 \quad (24)$$

(where F is the [pseudoscalar] meson decay constant), whereas the V_i are obtained by evaluating $\mathcal{L}^{(4)}$ counterterms and loops with $\mathcal{L}^{(2)}$ vertices. However, all cuts in the loop diagrams lie well outside the physical region. To see this consider, for example, the t -channel diagram in Fig. 1, which will develop imaginary parts for $t \geq (M_K + M_\pi)^2$ or $W^2 \geq (M_K + M_\pi)^2$. The same is true for all $\mathcal{O}(p^4)$ diagrams, which only have cuts in the variables t and W^2 , as, because of strangeness conservation, one always has to cut (at least) one kaon line. This implies that the structure functions are real in the physical region. As shown in Ref. [20] (and similarly for the neutral $K_{\ell 3\gamma}$ decay in Ref. [18]), the structure functions altogether vary only very little over phase space at $\mathcal{O}(p^4)$ and therefore, to a very good approximation, can be replaced by their average values $\langle V_i \rangle$ as given in Table 1. The reality of the

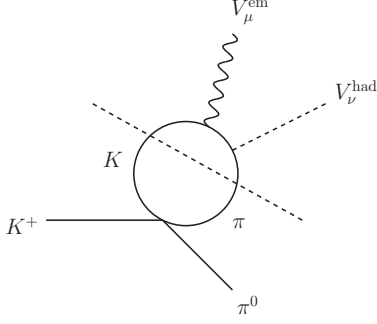


Fig. 1. Example of a $\mathcal{O}(p^4)$ loop diagram with cuts for $t \geq (M_K + M_\pi)^2$ and $W^2 \geq (M_K + M_\pi)^2$.

Table 1. Average values of V_i , A_i at $\mathcal{O}(p^4)$ (in units of M_K).

$\langle V_1 \rangle$	-1.24	$\langle A_1 \rangle$	-1.19
$\langle V_2 \rangle$	-0.19	$\langle A_2 \rangle$	0.30
$\langle V_3 \rangle$	-0.02	$\langle A_3 \rangle$	-1.19
$\langle V_4 \rangle$	0	$\langle A_4 \rangle$	0

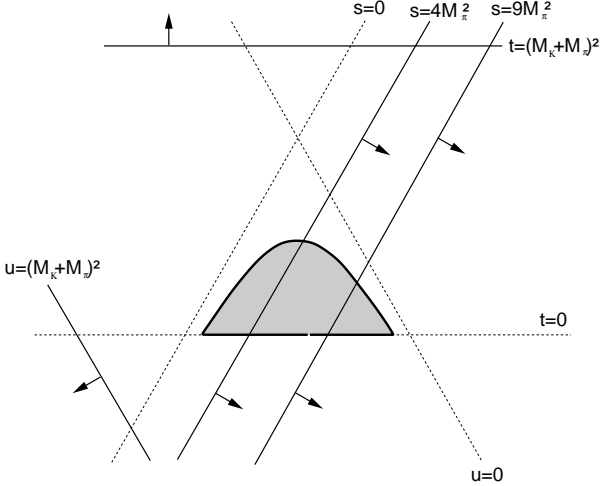


Fig. 2. Mandelstam plane with the lowest cuts in the variables s , t , u , at fixed $W^2 = m_e^2$.

structure functions implies that the squared matrix element (18) does not contain terms that are proportional to ξ , and hence the asymmetry A_ξ will be zero at this order of ChPT.

The lowest cut in the $K_{\ell 3}$ form factors $f_+(t)$, $f_1(t)$ also occurs at $t \geq (M_K + M_\pi)^2$, therefore the $K_{\ell 3}$ matrix element is real throughout phase space. In this work, we use a phenomenological parameterization of these form factors; see Appendix A.2.

3.2 $\text{Im}\{V_i\}$, $\text{Im}\{A_i\}$ at $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$

The above argument holds in fact for all cuts in the variables t , u , and W^2 , at arbitrary orders in the chiral expansion: because of strangeness conservation, all cuts in these variables lie at t , u , $W^2 \geq (M_K + M_\pi)^2$ and therefore outside the physical region. Cuts within the physical region

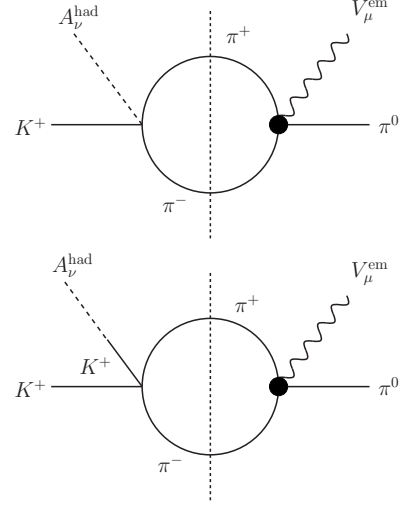


Fig. 3. $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$ diagrams with cuts in the s -channel that contribute to the $\text{Im}\{A_i\}$. The big filled dots denote vertices from the Wess-Zumino-Witten Lagrangian. The second diagram with the kaon pole contributes to A_3 only.

can only be due to two- or three-pion intermediate states in the s -channel, which first arise at $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$ in ChPT. All lowest cuts in the variables s , t , and u , and their positions in the Mandelstam plane are depicted in Fig. 2.

The Wess-Zumino-Witten Lagrangian contains $\pi\pi\pi\gamma$ vertices, therefore it is possible to have s -channel cuts of one-loop diagrams that will contribute to the axial tensor $A_{\mu\nu}$. The two diagrams shown in Fig. 3 are the only ones that have to be evaluated. We find

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im}\{A_1\} = \text{Im}\{A_3\} &= -\frac{s}{384\pi^3 F^4} \left(1 - \frac{4M_\pi^2}{s}\right)^{3/2}, \\ \text{Im}\{A_2\} = \text{Im}\{A_4\} &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

The threshold behavior in (25) is dictated by the fact that the intermediate pions are required to be in a relative p -wave, which leads to a suppression by a factor of $(1 - 4M_\pi^2/s) \sim |\mathbf{p}_{\text{rel}}|^2$ (where \mathbf{p}_{rel} is the relative 3-momentum of the pions in their center-of-mass system).

At $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$, the vector correlator $V_{\mu\nu}$ can only receive three-pion-cut contributions in the physical region, i.e., from two-loop diagrams. As the kinematical limit for s in the physical region is $s \leq (M_K - m_\ell)^2$, these will only contribute in the electron channel.

The general form of these two-loop diagrams is shown in Fig. 4a, where the blobs denote all possible combinations of propagators and vertices from $\mathcal{L}^{(2)}$. The right blob is the sum of all possible ways of coupling the photon, which is shown in Fig. 4c. One can show that, as the photon correlator Γ_μ is antisymmetric in $k_1 \leftrightarrow k_2$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_\mu &= \langle \pi^0(p') | V_\mu^{\text{em}} | \pi^-(k_1)\pi^+(k_2)\pi^0(k_3) \rangle \\ &= \frac{e}{F^2} \left\{ (k_1 + k_2 - q)^2 - M_\pi^2 \right\} \left(\frac{k_{1\mu}}{k_1 q} - \frac{k_{2\mu}}{k_2 q} \right) + \mathcal{O}(p^4), \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

it is sufficient to consider the sum of diagrams shown in Fig. 4b for the weak vector current coupling, as the sum of

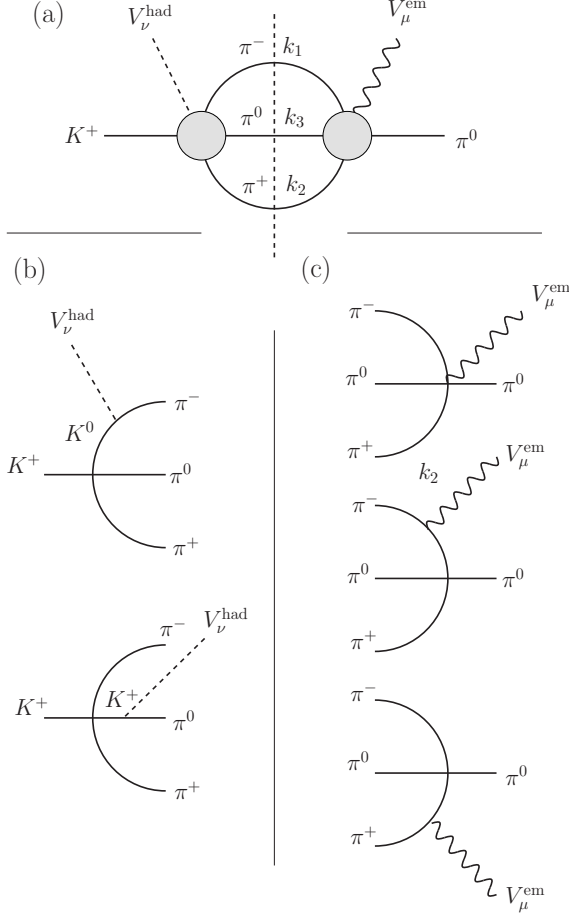


Fig. 4. Two-loop diagrams with three-pion cuts that contribute to the $\text{Im}\{V_i\}$.

all other diagrams does not contribute. Isospin symmetry conservation dictates that the correlator [25]

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \pi^-(k_1) \pi^+(k_2) \pi^0(k_3) | V_\nu^{\text{had}} | K^+(p) \rangle \\ = A_\nu(2, 1, 3) + B_\nu(2, 1, 3) \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

can be decomposed into an amplitude $A_\nu(2, 1, 3)$ that is symmetric in the charged-pion momenta k_1, k_2 , and an amplitude $B_\nu(2, 1, 3)$ that is totally antisymmetric in k_1, k_2 , and k_3 . Thus only $B_\nu(2, 1, 3)$ is projected out as the integration is symmetric in the intermediate pion momenta. Reversing this argument it is also clear that only the totally antisymmetric part of the photon correlator Γ_μ will contribute. This leads to a further suppression of the imaginary parts by $1 - 9M_\pi^2/s$ near the cut threshold as we will discuss below.

In order to evaluate the imaginary part of these diagrams we use Cutkosky rules [26]. As the phase space is restricted by $s \leq (M_K - m_e)^2$ and the cut starts at $s \geq 9M_\pi^2$ the intermediate pions are close to threshold. We thus expand the integral in the small quantity

$$\epsilon = \frac{\sqrt{s} - 3M_\pi}{M_\pi} = \frac{3}{2} \left(1 - \frac{9M_\pi^2}{s} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2), \quad (28)$$

and content ourselves with calculating the imaginary parts of the structure functions V_i to leading order in ϵ . In this way we correctly reproduce the leading threshold behavior.³

We first discuss how the threshold behavior of this three-pion-cut contribution can be understood without explicit calculation, in terms of symmetry arguments. We argued above that only the totally antisymmetric part of the correlator in (27) will contribute. However, in our expansion $B_\nu(2, 1, 3)$ is expandable as a polynomial in the pion three momenta \mathbf{k}_i , and it is easy to see that each polynomial that is totally antisymmetric in the \mathbf{k}_i is at least of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{k}_i \mathbf{k}_j) = \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$. The same is true for the totally antisymmetric part of the photon correlator. Note that both the kaon and the pion propagators in the diagrams Fig. 4 are non-singular near threshold,

$$\begin{aligned} M_K^2 - (k_i + W)^2 &\rightarrow \frac{2}{3}(M_K^2 + 3M_\pi^2 - W^2) + \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{\epsilon}), \\ k_i q &\rightarrow \frac{4}{3}M_\pi^2 + \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{\epsilon}) \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

(in the center-of-mass system of the three pions), and can therefore be safely expanded. We therefore obtain a factor of ϵ^2 from the vertices alone. The three-particle phase space by itself is of $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$, hence we expect that the lowest power of ϵ in the expansion of the imaginary parts of the structure functions V_i will be $\epsilon^4 \sim (1 - 9M_\pi^2/s)^4$. So while angular momentum conservation leads to a suppression by one additional power of ϵ like in the two-pion-cut diagrams discussed above, another factor of ϵ is due to isospin symmetry arguments. If isospin-violating effects were allowed for, an isospin-breaking threshold behavior $\sim \epsilon^3$ would occur.

Further technical details on the calculation of the three-pion-cut contributions can be found in Ref. [28]. The explicit expressions we find are

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im}\{V_i\} &= C_i \cdot \frac{1}{32768\pi^2\sqrt{3}F^4} \\ &\times \frac{s}{M_K^2 + 3M_\pi^2 - W^2} \left(1 - \frac{9M_\pi^2}{s} \right)^4 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5), \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= \frac{1}{2}(s + t - M_K^2), & C_2 &= \frac{1}{2}(s + M_\pi^2), \\ C_3 &= 0, & C_4 &= 1. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

We expect that the two types of contributions to the T -odd asymmetry due to imaginary parts in the structure functions A_i, V_i differ considerably in size for the following reasons:

³ Note that, despite the fact that ϵ can be as large as 0.5 at the border of phase space, such an expansion in ϵ is seen to converge rather rapidly for the imaginary part of the scalar sunset diagram S , $\text{Im}\{S\} = M_\pi^2 \epsilon^2 / (384\sqrt{3}\pi^2) \{1 - \epsilon/6 + 7\epsilon^2/144 \mp \dots\}$; see e.g. Ref. [27].

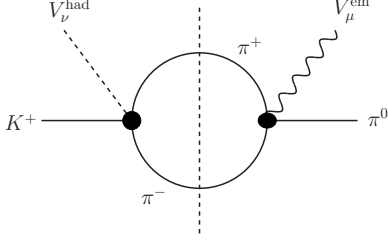


Fig. 5. Two-pion-cut diagram contributing to $\text{Im}\{V_i\}$ at $\mathcal{O}(p^8)$.

1. The three-pion-cut diagrams contribute only in a very small region of phase space compared to the two-pion-cut diagrams due to the higher threshold. Numerically, this turns out to account for a relative suppression by roughly three orders of magnitude.
2. The threshold behavior of the latter is only suppressed as $(1 - 4M_\pi^2/s)^{3/2}$ compared to $(1 - 9M_\pi^2/s)^4$ for the three-pion-cut diagrams. The higher exponent for the three-pion cut leads to a further suppression by about two orders of magnitude.
3. Finally, additional combinatorial prefactors of the three-particle versus the two-particle phase space suppress the former by another two orders of magnitude.

Altogether we expect the three-pion-cut diagrams at $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$ to be suppressed by roughly seven orders of magnitude compared to the two-pion-cut contributions at the same chiral order. These expectations are born out in the precise numerical evaluations below.

3.3 Beyond $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$

In the light of the strong kinematical suppression of the three-pion-cut contributions in the vector structure functions, we find better constraints on the asymmetries due to hadronic loops by calculating the leading chiral *two-pion cuts* instead of the leading chiral imaginary parts in general. Even though two-pion-cut contributions in the V_i only occur at $\mathcal{O}(p^8)$ and therefore at higher chiral order than the three-pion-cut terms, larger phase space and less strongly suppressed threshold behavior will actually make these contributions numerically much more significant. In addition, for the muon channel these represent the first cuts in the vector structure functions at all.⁴

At $\mathcal{O}(p^8)$, the one-loop diagram in Fig. 5 with two anomalous vertices contributes to the imaginary parts of the V_i . The diagram is readily evaluated with the result

$$\text{Im}\{V_i\} = C_i \cdot \frac{s}{1536\pi^5 F^6} \left(1 - \frac{4M_\pi^2}{s}\right)^{3/2} \quad (32)$$

with the same prefactors C_i of (31). Note that, again, as the intermediate pions cannot be in a relative s -wave

⁴ In Ref. [18], only the first cuts at $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$ were considered, which is why the two-pion cut in the vector structure functions is not shown in Fig. 2 of that reference.

the diagram is suppressed by an additional factor of $(1 - 4M_\pi^2/s)$ compared to the scalar diagram. We therefore find the same threshold behavior as for the axial vector structure functions.

While we have evaluated the leading chiral two-pion-cut contributions to $A_{\mu\nu}$ (25), and $V_{\mu\nu}$ (32), the structure functions A_2 , A_4 , and V_3 are still real at these orders. We have checked by inserting polynomial vertices of higher order in the diagrams of Figs. 3 and 5 that this is in general not the case. As a complete calculation of such even-higher-order effects is beyond the scope of this article, we only want to ensure that asymmetries due to imaginary parts in A_2 , A_4 , and V_3 are not accidentally enhanced by kinematical prefactors in the squared matrix element. To convince ourselves that higher order corrections are sufficiently suppressed, we will below evaluate the asymmetries with the imaginary parts of A_1 and V_4 inserted by hand into A_2 , A_4 , and V_3 :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im}\{A_2\} &= M_K^2 \cdot \text{Im}\{A_4\} = \frac{s}{384\pi^3 F^4} \left(1 - \frac{4M_\pi^2}{s}\right)^{3/2}, \\ \text{Im}\{V_3\} &= \frac{s}{1536\pi^5 F^6} \left(1 - \frac{4M_\pi^2}{s}\right)^{3/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

In reality, $\text{Im}\{V_3\}$, $\text{Im}\{A_2\}$, $\text{Im}\{A_4\}$ are suppressed compared to (33) by at least two orders in the chiral expansion. The “pseudo-asymmetries” calculated from (33) are therefore conservative upper-limit estimates for such effects.

3.4 Numerical results

We compute the differential decay width $d\Gamma/d\xi$ in the rest frame of the decaying kaon by evaluating the phase space integral using the phase space generator **RAMBO** [29]. In the electron channel we apply the “standard” cuts on the photon energy ($E_\gamma^* > 30$ MeV) and on the photon positron angle ($\theta_{e\gamma}^* > 20^\circ$), whereas in the muon channel we only cut on the photon energy.

The numerical results for the contributions to the asymmetry A_ξ from the various loop diagrams are shown in Table 2. Note that the imaginary parts of the A_i yield the dominant contribution. The main contribution to the $\text{Im}\{V_i\}$ is of $\mathcal{O}(p^8)$, and the numerical suppression relative to the $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$ $\text{Im}\{A_i\}$ terms indeed turns out to be about one order of magnitude. The asymmetry in the muon channel is slightly smaller due to relatively smaller phase space available for imaginary parts from the two-pion cut. We point out once more that due to the necessary $\pi\pi \rightarrow \pi\gamma$ rescattering, all these two-pion cut contributions can be traced back to the axial anomaly. The relative size of the two-loop contributions agrees roughly with our estimate in the previous section, i.e. they are suppressed by seven orders of magnitude and are totally negligible.

Finally, we quote the pseudo-asymmetries estimated from the choice of imaginary parts given in (33) in Table 3. We find all of them to be at most of the same order as the non-vanishing contributions in the other structure functions, hence there is no unnatural kinematical

Table 2. Asymmetries in the electron- and muon channel. V_i (A_i) labels the asymmetry we would obtain if we set all imaginary parts except $\text{Im}\{V_i\}$ ($\text{Im}\{A_i\}$) to zero.

		electron	muon
	A_1	1.4×10^{-6}	4.5×10^{-7}
	A_2	0	0
	A_3	—	-0.04×10^{-7}
	A_4	0	0
(2- π -cut)	V_1	-1.2×10^{-7}	-3.1×10^{-8}
	V_2	-0.9×10^{-7}	-4.2×10^{-8}
	V_3	—	0
	V_4	-2.2×10^{-7}	-0.2×10^{-8}
(3- π -cut)	V_1	-0.8×10^{-14}	—
	V_2	-3.0×10^{-14}	—
	V_3	—	—
	V_4	-6.6×10^{-14}	—
	total	0.9×10^{-6}	3.7×10^{-7}

Table 3. Asymmetries due to non-vanishing imaginary parts in V_3 , A_2 , A_4 ; see (33).

	electron	muon
V_3	—	1.4×10^{-8}
A_2	-0.8×10^{-6}	-4.5×10^{-7}
A_4	0.5×10^{-6}	0.5×10^{-7}

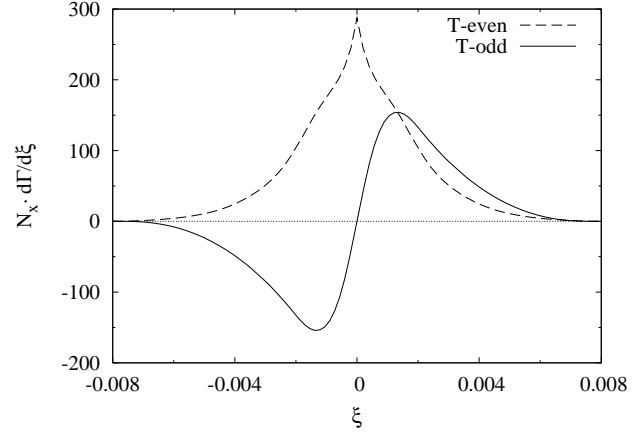
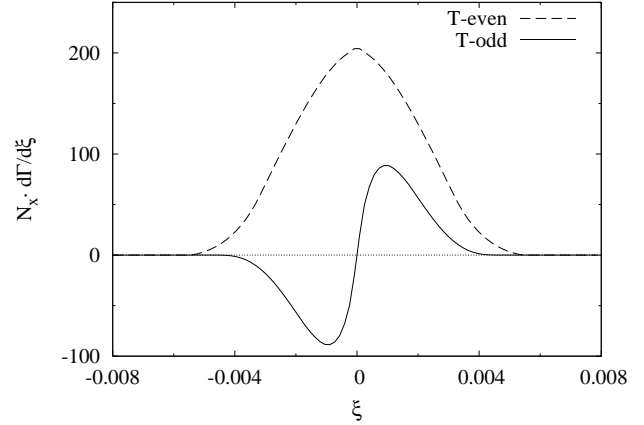
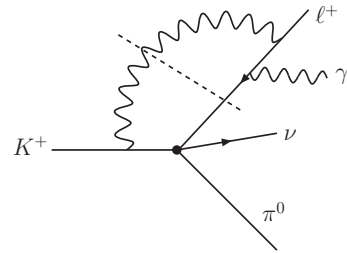
enhancement of $\text{Im}\{V_3\}$, $\text{Im}\{A_2\}$, and $\text{Im}\{A_4\}$, such that an estimate of typical chiral SU(3) higher-order corrections of the order of 20–30% remains valid.

In Figs. 6 and 7 we also plot the T -even and T -odd contributions to the differential width $d\Gamma/d\xi$, both for the electron and the muon channel. As ξ^2 can be expressed in terms of the standard five invariant kinematical variables, the distribution $d\Gamma/d\xi$ contains no fundamentally new information beyond differential widths with respect to those other variables plus the integral asymmetry A_ξ .

4 Comparison to other T -odd contributions

4.1 T -odd correlations and photon loops

In the previous section, we evaluated the correlators $V_{\mu\nu}$ and $A_{\mu\nu}$ in ChPT and showed that the structure functions V_i , A_i become complex at higher orders in the chiral expansion, which leads to a non-vanishing value of the asymmetry A_ξ . However, the matrix element (18) we use is only of lowest order in α . In Ref. [16], higher-order electromagnetic corrections to this matrix element were included. These consist of loop diagrams with intermediate photons as the one in Fig. 8 that develops an imaginary part. Squaring the amplitude (which, in addition to

**Fig. 6.** T -even and T -odd contributions to $d\Gamma/d\xi$ in the electron channel. $10^6 N_{\text{odd}}^{-1} = N_{\text{even}}^{-1} = \Gamma(K_{e3\gamma})$ **Fig. 7.** T -even and T -odd contributions to $d\Gamma/d\xi$ in the muon channel. $10^6 N_{\text{odd}}^{-1} = N_{\text{even}}^{-1} = \Gamma(K_{\mu 3\gamma})$ **Fig. 8.** Example of a photon loop diagram. For a complete listing of all Feynman diagrams that contribute to the imaginary parts via electromagnetic final-state interactions, see Fig. 5 in Ref. [16].

(18), contains next-to-leading-order electromagnetic corrections denoted $T_{\text{one loop}}$ in (10) in Ref. [16]) one sees that these imaginary parts lead to a non-zero A_ξ . The following asymmetries in the electron and in the muon channel were obtained [16]:

$$\begin{aligned} A_\xi(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e \gamma) &= -0.59 \times 10^{-4}, \\ A_\xi(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu \gamma) &= 1.14 \times 10^{-4}, \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

which have to be compared to the values we get from hadronic loops (Table 2).⁵ We find that the effects of strong interaction phases are suppressed compared to the electromagnetic final-state interaction by roughly two orders of magnitude.

Naively one might have expected that both are of comparable size because, although the electromagnetic asymmetry is suppressed by $\alpha \sim 1/137$, hadronic loops only occur in the SD part of the matrix element, which is suppressed by a factor of $\sim 1/100$. However, the following two additional effects discussed in the previous section reduce the impact of the imaginary parts from pion loops even further compared to the photon loop contributions:

1. While the imaginary parts of photon loop diagrams are non-vanishing in the complete physical phase space, those from pion loops only contribute to the asymmetry A_ξ above the two-pion threshold, $s > 4M_\pi^2$. This reduced part of phase space accounts for a suppression of roughly one order of magnitude.
2. In addition, the slow rise of the imaginary part above threshold due to its p -wave characteristic reduces its effect even further.

Altogether this explains the relative smallness of the hadronic asymmetries. The standard model contributions to the T -odd correlations in $K_{\ell 3\gamma}$ are therefore indeed dominated by electromagnetic final-state interactions, and the estimate given in Ref. [16] remains valid. Hadronic loops are suppressed even to the extent that the main uncertainty are effects of chiral order $\mathcal{O}(e^2 p^4)$ that have not yet been considered.

4.2 T -odd correlations beyond the standard model

So far, we only considered contributions to the asymmetry A_ξ from pion and photon loop effects. We now turn to T -odd correlations due to generalized weak current-current interactions, which can arise in certain extensions of the standard model. In Refs. [15, 30] the following model-independent effective Lagrangian for $s \rightarrow u$ transitions is given:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{us}^* & \left[\bar{s} \gamma^\mu ((1 + g_v) - (1 - g_a) \gamma_5) u \cdot \bar{\nu}(1 + \gamma_5) \gamma_\mu \ell \right. \\ & + \bar{s} (g_s + g_p \gamma_5) u \cdot \bar{\nu}(1 + \gamma_5) \ell \\ & \left. + g_t \bar{s} \sigma^{\mu\nu} u \cdot \bar{\nu}(1 + \gamma_5) \sigma_{\mu\nu} \ell \right] + (h.c.) , \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

with $\sigma_{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2} [\gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu]$. In contrast to the standard model, which only contains weak $V - A$ transitions, there are also terms that allow for transitions via purely vector, axial vector, scalar, pseudoscalar, and tensor currents. For a discussion of models generating such effective couplings and possible constraints on their size from $K_{\ell 3\gamma}$, see Ref. [15] and references therein.

⁵ As noted in Ref. [16], the photon loop asymmetry is larger (and opposite in sign) in the muon channel due to numerically significant structures scaling with the lepton mass.

From the Lagrangian (35) one can immediately obtain a generalized matrix element for the $K_{\ell 3\gamma}^+$ decay

$$\begin{aligned} T = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} V_{us}^* e \epsilon^\mu(q)^* & \times \left[((1 + g_v) V_{\mu\nu} - (1 - g_a) A_{\mu\nu}) \cdot \bar{\nu}(1 + \gamma_5) \gamma^\nu \ell \right. \\ & + (1 + g_v) \frac{F_\nu}{2p_\ell q} \cdot \bar{\nu}(1 + \gamma_5) \gamma^\nu (m_\ell - \not{p}_\ell - \not{q}) \gamma_\mu \ell \\ & + (g_s F_\mu^s + g_p F_\mu^p) \cdot \bar{\nu}(1 + \gamma_5) \ell \\ & + g_s \frac{f}{2p_\ell q} \cdot \bar{\nu}(1 + \gamma_5) (m_\ell - \not{p}_\ell - \not{q}) \gamma_\mu \ell \\ & + g_t \hat{T}_{\mu\nu\rho} \cdot \bar{\nu}(1 + \gamma_5) \sigma^{\nu\rho} \ell \\ & \left. + g_t \frac{F_{\nu\rho}^t}{2p_\ell q} \cdot \bar{\nu}(1 + \gamma_5) \sigma^{\nu\rho} (m_\ell - \not{p}_\ell - \not{q}) \gamma_\mu \ell \right] , \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

where the hadronic correlators are defined by⁶

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\mu\nu} &= i \int \mathcal{D}^4 x \langle \pi^0(p') | T \{ V_\mu^{\text{em}}(x) (\bar{s} \gamma_\nu u)(0) \} | K^+(p) \rangle , \\ A_{\mu\nu} &= i \int \mathcal{D}^4 x \langle \pi^0(p') | T \{ V_\mu^{\text{em}}(x) (\bar{s} \gamma_\nu \gamma_5 u)(0) \} | K^+(p) \rangle , \\ F_\nu &= \langle \pi^0(p') | (\bar{s} \gamma_\nu u)(0) | K^+(p) \rangle , \\ F_\mu^s &= i \int \mathcal{D}^4 x \langle \pi^0(p') | T \{ V_\mu^{\text{em}}(x) (\bar{s} u)(0) \} | K^+(p) \rangle , \\ F_\mu^p &= i \int \mathcal{D}^4 x \langle \pi^0(p') | T \{ V_\mu^{\text{em}}(x) (\bar{s} \gamma_5 u)(0) \} | K^+(p) \rangle , \\ f &= \langle \pi^0(p') | (\bar{s} u)(0) | K^+(p) \rangle , \\ \hat{T}_{\mu\nu\rho} &= i \int \mathcal{D}^4 x \langle \pi^0(p') | T \{ V_\mu^{\text{em}}(x) (\bar{s} \sigma_{\nu\rho} u)(0) \} | K^+(p) \rangle , \\ F_{\nu\rho}^t &= \langle \pi^0(p') | (\bar{s} \sigma_{\nu\rho} u)(0) | K^+(p) \rangle , \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

with

$$\int \mathcal{D}^4 x \equiv \int d^4 x e^{iqx} . \quad (38)$$

Squaring the matrix element (36) one finds that the T -odd part is proportional to the imaginary parts of the couplings g_i

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}^{-1} \sum_{\text{spins}} |T|^2 &= |T|_{\text{even}}^2 + \xi \left(\text{Im}\{g_v\} C_v + \text{Im}\{g_a\} C_a \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{Im}\{g_s\} C_s + \text{Im}\{g_p\} C_p + \text{Im}\{g_t\} C_t \right) , \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

where the C_i are functions depending on the $K_{\ell 3}$ form factors and the vector and axial structure functions. One can compute the differential width $d\Gamma/d\xi$ by integrating

⁶ Note that the scalar, pseudoscalar, and tensor correlators are not renormalization-group invariant and have to be taken at a specific scale. If one calculates the coupling constants g_s, g_p, g_t in a certain model, they have to be chosen accordingly. As a consequence of this, we have to specify quark mass values for an evaluation of the scalar and pseudoscalar correlators, see Appendix B.1, which are scale-dependent.

Table 4. Asymmetries $A_\xi^{(i)}$ for extensions of the standard model, where i is listed in the first column.

	electron	muon
vector/axial vector	-2.5×10^{-3}	-7.8×10^{-3}
scalar	-3.6×10^{-5}	-1.3×10^{-2}
pseudoscalar	-1.4×10^{-5}	-4.8×10^{-3}
tensor	1.7×10^{-5}	6.0×10^{-3}

over phase space and extract the various parts $A_\xi^{(i)}$ of the asymmetry A_ξ that we decompose according to

$$A_\xi = \sum_{i=v,a,s,p,t} \text{Im}\{g_i\} A_\xi^{(i)}. \quad (40)$$

The numerical results for the $A_\xi^{(i)}$ are shown in Table 4. They are a measure for the sensitivity of an asymmetry determination to the imaginary parts of the different couplings g_i . We note that the numbers for scalar and pseudoscalar asymmetries disagree somewhat with the precise results quoted in Ref. [15].

We want to shed some additional light on the structure of the terms C_i and the numerical size of the $A_\xi^{(i)}$ as displayed in Table 4. As the infrared divergences for small photon momenta in $K_{\ell 3\gamma}$ are intimately linked to virtual photon corrections in the non-radiative process $K_{\ell 3}$, it is obvious that the T -odd numerator in the asymmetry (23) cannot be infrared divergent, while the denominator is. In this sense, we would expect the asymmetries $A_\xi^{(i)}$ to be roughly of the order of the relative size SD/IB, that is on the percent level. This proves to be a realistic estimate, see Table 4. Indeed, some of the asymmetries are proportional to structure dependent terms ($A_\xi^{(v/a)}$, see below, and $A_\xi^{(p)}$), while for those in which interference terms between different bremsstrahlung contributions occur ($A_\xi^{(s)}$, $A_\xi^{(t)}$), the kinematic prefactors cancel out the appropriate power of photon momenta.

The structures C_s , C_p , and C_t are multiplied by a factor of m_ℓ (see (B.1), (B.3), and (B.8)), which is why these asymmetries are suppressed in the electron channel compared to the ones proportional to $\text{Im}\{g_v\} / \text{Im}\{g_a\}$.

It is argued in Ref. [15] that $C_a = C_v$, as an overall phase compared to the standard model $V - A$ coupling would not lead to any asymmetry. As g_a can obviously not contribute to the squared matrix element if $A_{\mu\nu}$ vanishes, we conclude that $C_a = C_v$ has to be proportional to the axial vector structure functions A_i . Indeed we find the following decomposition of the asymmetries $A_\xi^{(v/a)}$ (for

approximately constant structure functions)

$$\begin{aligned} A_\xi^{(v/a)}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e \gamma) &= [1.8\langle A_1 \rangle - 1.5\langle A_2 \rangle + 0.5\langle A_4 \rangle] \cdot 10^{-3}, \\ A_\xi^{(v/a)}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu \gamma) &= [5.1\langle A_1 \rangle - 5.3\langle A_2 \rangle + 0.2\langle A_3 \rangle + 0.8\langle A_4 \rangle] \cdot 10^{-3}. \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

The total values in Table 4 are obtained with the values for the $\langle A_i \rangle$ given in Table 1. It is obvious that chiral higher-order corrections modifying the $\langle A_i \rangle$ will affect the asymmetries $A_\xi^{(v/a)}$ accordingly. (This explains a slight deviation from the results for the vector/axial vector asymmetries in Ref. [15], as our $\langle A_i \rangle$ in Table 1 are smaller by a factor of $F_K/F_\pi \approx 1.2$.) We emphasize that only the presence of the axial structure functions due to the Wess–Zumino–Witten anomaly allows for a T -odd asymmetry that scales with $\text{Im}\{g_v\} / \text{Im}\{g_a\}$. Furthermore, it follows that, as a matter of principle, $\text{Im}\{g_v\} / \text{Im}\{g_a\}$ can only be extracted from experiment with the same accuracy with which the axial structure functions are known.

We also split the form factors and structure functions for scalar and tensor interactions in (37) into an inner bremsstrahlung and a structure dependent part (see Appendix B, compare Sect. 2.1). We note again that interference terms of doubly structure dependent origin are strongly suppressed and can be neglected in all cases. For the part of the asymmetry proportional to $\text{Im}\{g_s\}$, a decomposition analogous to (41) is of the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} A_\xi^{(s)}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu_e \gamma) &= [0.9 + 0.6\langle S \rangle - 0.2\langle V_3 \rangle - 0.2\langle V_4 \rangle \\ &\quad + 3.4\langle A_1 \rangle - 0.5\langle A_2 \rangle + 0.4\langle A_3 \rangle + 0.7\langle A_4 \rangle] \cdot 10^{-5}, \\ A_\xi^{(s)}(K^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 \mu^+ \nu_\mu \gamma) &= [3.5 + 1.8\langle S \rangle - 0.6\langle V_3 \rangle - 0.5\langle V_4 \rangle \\ &\quad + 10.7\langle A_1 \rangle - 4.7\langle A_2 \rangle + 2.1\langle A_3 \rangle + 1.8\langle A_4 \rangle] \cdot 10^{-3}. \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

(For a definition of the scalar structure function S , see Appendix B.2.) Here, interference between vector and scalar bremsstrahlung terms occurs, so there is a term that is not proportional to any of the structure functions, but it turns out to be small, so that in particular the contribution $\propto \langle A_1 \rangle$ yields the largest part of this asymmetry. So also the asymmetry $A_\xi^{(s)}$ is largely due to the existence of the anomaly term.

The pseudoscalar form factor F_μ^p is itself a purely structure dependent term [15], see Appendix B.1, that can be calculated at leading order from the Wess–Zumino–Witten anomaly.

Only for the tensor asymmetry $A_\xi^{(t)}$, interference terms of purely bremsstrahlung type are dominant and by themselves lead to the numbers quoted in Table 4 at a few percent accuracy. Here, the vector and axial vector structure functions play no important role. (We have disregarded structure dependent tensor contributions, about which nothing is known; see Appendix B.2.)

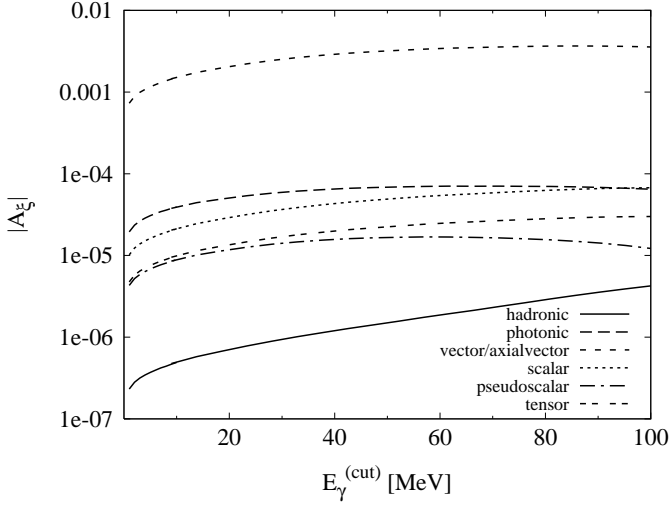


Fig. 9. Dependence of the various contributions to the T -odd asymmetry on E_γ^{cut} , for the electron channel, at fixed $\theta_{e\gamma}^{\text{cut}} = 20^\circ$.

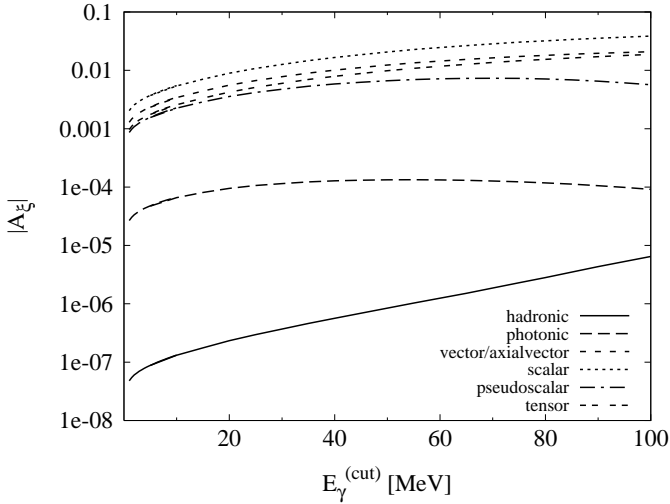


Fig. 10. Dependence of the various contributions to the T -odd asymmetry on E_γ^{cut} , for the muon channel.

4.3 Cut dependence

In this section, we want to briefly investigate how the various contributions to the asymmetries scale with the cuts on E_γ^* and (in the electron channel) $\theta_{e\gamma}^*$.

In Figs. 9 and 10, we show the E_γ^{cut} -dependence of the T -odd asymmetries due to pion loops, photon loops, as well as the $A_\xi^{(i)}$, $i = v/a, s, p, t$. Because of the infrared singularity in the T -even decay width, the asymmetries display a weak singular behavior $\propto (\log E_\gamma^{\text{cut}})^{-1}$ at very small energies; Figs. 9 and 10 show that this singularity is largely irrelevant for cuts larger than 5 MeV. The pion-loop contributions display the strongest rise with E_γ^{cut} as the phase space regions with small E_γ^* are those where the imaginary parts of the hadronic structure functions vanish anyway. Otherwise, there are no dramatic changes in the relative importance of the different contributions

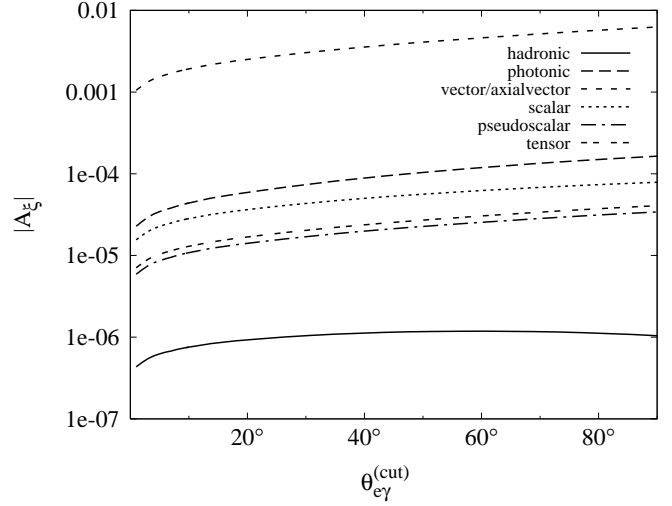


Fig. 11. Dependence of the various contributions to the T -odd asymmetry on $\theta_{e\gamma}^{\text{cut}}$, for the electron channel, at fixed $E_\gamma^{\text{cut}} = 30$ MeV.

in either channel, such that the available statistics should determine the preferred experimental cuts.

Figure 11 shows the $\theta_{e\gamma}^{\text{cut}}$ -dependence of the various contributions to the asymmetry for the electron channel. Here the variation of the hadronic loop contributions is particularly small. A significant reduction of the asymmetries due to the near-singular behavior of the denominator for collinear photon–electron momenta is only visible for cuts well below 10° . Otherwise the conclusion is similar to the one for the photon energy cut dependence: the relative importance of the various contributions hardly varies.

5 Summary and conclusions

In this article, we have completed and deepened previous investigations of T -odd correlations in radiative $K_{\ell 3}$ decays. We can summarize our findings as follows:

1. Although the vector and axial vector structure functions V_i , A_i are real at chiral $\mathcal{O}(p^4)$, they develop imaginary parts stemming from intermediate two- and three-pion states at higher orders. Starting at $\mathcal{O}(p^6)$, we have calculated the asymmetry due to two-pion cuts in the A_i and three-pion cuts in the V_i , where the latter were found to be totally negligible due to phase space and threshold behavior suppression.
2. We have supplemented the leading imaginary parts in chiral power counting by the leading chiral two-pion cuts, which only appear at $\mathcal{O}(p^8)$ in the case of the V_i . Altogether, this provides a reliable estimate of the asymmetries due to strong interaction phases, which we find to be $A_\xi = 0.9 \times 10^{-6}$ for the electron channel and $A_\xi = 3.7 \times 10^{-7}$ for the muon channel. Even-higher-order corrections to these numbers are not expected to exceed 20–30%.
3. These asymmetries turn out to be smaller by about two orders of magnitude than those calculated from elec-

tromagnetic final-state interactions [16]. This suppression can be understood by the smallness of structure dependent contributions in this decay channel, higher thresholds of the hadronic intermediate states, and p -wave threshold behavior. Altogether, these effects overcompensate for the suppression of photon loops by the fine-structure constant α . We conclude that the estimate of the standard model contribution to the T -odd asymmetry based solely on photon loops remains valid.

4. We have re-analyzed the structure of the asymmetries that emerge due to non-standard current-current interactions with complex coupling constants. The generic size of such asymmetries at or below the percent level can be understood in terms of the relative size of structure dependent terms relative to the T -even bremsstrahlung amplitude. We emphasize that the appearance of asymmetries proportional to imaginary parts in vector, axial vector, scalar, and pseudoscalar coupling constants are due to the presence of the Wess–Zumino–Witten anomaly.
5. We have finally shown that the relative importance of various contributions to T -odd asymmetries show no strong dependence on the experimental cuts E_γ^{cut} , $\theta_{e\gamma}^{\text{cut}}$.

We conclude that the theoretical framework for an interpretation of T -odd asymmetries in $K_{\ell 3\gamma}^+$ decays is firmly set, and it remains a formidable, but potentially rewarding challenge to existing and future experiments [13, 14, 31, 32] to measure such asymmetries at the required accuracy.

Acknowledgements.

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A Numerical parameters

A.1 Masses and decay constants

In this article, we use the particle masses $M_K = M_{K^+} = 493.68$ MeV, $M_\pi = M_{\pi^0} = 134.98$ MeV, $m_e = 0.511$ MeV, $m_\mu = 105.658$ MeV. In general, we work in the isospin limit. We only adjust the thresholds in the loop functions such that the cuts in s start in the appropriate place, i.e. in (25), (30), and (32) we replace

$$\left(1 - \frac{(2M_\pi)^2}{s}\right)^{3/2} \longrightarrow \left(1 - \frac{(2M_{\pi^\pm})^2}{s}\right)^{3/2} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

for the two-pion cuts and

$$\left(1 - \frac{(3M_\pi)^2}{s}\right)^4 \longrightarrow \left(1 - \frac{(2M_{\pi^\pm} + M_{\pi^0})^2}{s}\right)^4 \quad (\text{A.2})$$

for the three-pion cut contributions, where we use $M_{\pi^\pm} = 139.57$ MeV.

To be consistent with Ref. [18] where the meson decay constants were used according to $F^2 \rightarrow F_\pi F_K$, we also employ $F^4 \rightarrow F_K F_\pi^3$ and $F^6 \rightarrow F_K F_\pi^5$ in the loop contributions, with $F_\pi = 92.4$ MeV and $F_K = 1.22 F_\pi$.

A.2 $K_{\ell 3}$ form factors

The K_{e3} form factor can be parameterized by

$$f_+(t) = f_+(0) \left(1 + \lambda_+ \frac{t}{M_\pi^2} + \lambda_+'' \frac{t^2}{M_\pi^4}\right). \quad (\text{A.3})$$

For $f_+(0)$ we use the parameter-free one-loop result given in Ref. [33]

$$f_+^{K^+\pi^0}(0) = 1.022 \cdot f_+^{K^0\pi^-}(0) = 0.998, \quad (\text{A.4})$$

and use the one-loop value for λ_+ ,

$$\lambda_+ = 0.0275. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

We neglect the curvature term $\propto \lambda_+''$, a final experimental conclusion on this term seems not to have been reached so far; compare Refs. [34, 35]. A similar parameterization can be used for the scalar form factor,

$$f_0(t) = f_0(0) \left(1 + \lambda_0 \frac{t}{M_\pi^2}\right), \quad (\text{A.6})$$

which is related to f_1 and f_+ by

$$f_0(t) = f_+(t) + \frac{t}{M_K^2 - M_\pi^2} [f_1(t) - f_+(t)]. \quad (\text{A.7})$$

We use

$$\lambda_0 = 0.016 \quad (\text{A.8})$$

given by one-loop ChPT [33], which is in fair agreement with latest experimental findings [34].

B Form factors and structure functions beyond the standard model

In this section we give expressions for the correlators of non-standard currents defined in (37) in terms of form factors and structure functions.

B.1 Derivation of F_μ^s , f , and F_μ^p

Using chiral Ward identities [17], one can express the scalar correlator F_μ^s and the form factor f in terms of $V_{\mu\nu}$ and F_ν . This has been done in Ref. [15], so here we merely quote the results,

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\mu\nu} W^\nu + F_\mu &= (m_u - m_s) F_\mu^s, \\ F_\nu (p - p')^\nu &= (m_u - m_s) f. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

Note that because of the axial anomaly, there is no corresponding relation for F_μ^p . This pseudoscalar term can be evaluated in ChPT and contains no inner bremsstrahlung contribution. At leading order one obtains [15, 30]

$$F_\mu^p = \frac{i P}{\sqrt{2}(m_u + m_s)} \epsilon_{\mu\lambda\rho\sigma} p'^\lambda q^\rho W^\sigma, \quad (\text{B.2})$$

with

$$P = \frac{1}{2\pi^2 F^2} \frac{M_K^2}{M_K^2 - W^2}. \quad (\text{B.3})$$

As pointed out in footnote 6, the scalar and pseudoscalar correlators are renormalization scale dependent, and we have to specify (scale dependent) quark masses. For our numerical evaluations, we use $m_u = 4$ MeV and $m_s = 115$ MeV, which are thought to be typical values at a scale of about 2 GeV.

B.2 Decomposition of scalar and tensor correlators

The correlators F_μ^s and $\hat{T}_{\mu\nu\rho}$ can be split into an inner bremsstrahlung and a structure dependent part in a similar manner as done for $V_{\mu\nu}$, along the lines of Appendix E in Ref. [18]. For the scalar correlator we require

$$q^\mu F_\mu^{s,\text{IB}} = f(t), \quad q^\mu F_\mu^{s,\text{SD}} = 0, \quad (\text{B.4})$$

and find

$$\begin{aligned} F_\mu^{s,\text{IB}} &= \frac{p_\mu}{pq} f(W^2) + \frac{W_\mu}{qW} \Delta f, \\ F_\mu^{s,\text{SD}} &= \frac{S}{\sqrt{2}(m_u - m_s)} (qW p_\mu - pq W_\mu), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.5})$$

with $\Delta f = f(t) - f(W^2)$. Using (B.1) we see that S is given by the form factor f_+ and the V_i as

$$S = 2 \frac{\Delta f_+}{qW} + V_1 + W^2 V_3 + p'W V_4. \quad (\text{B.6})$$

$F_{\nu\rho}^t$ can be parameterized as

$$F_{\nu\rho}^t = \frac{i B_T(t)}{\sqrt{2} M_K} (p_\nu p'_\rho - p'_\nu p_\rho). \quad (\text{B.7})$$

Again, we can split $\hat{T}_{\mu\nu\rho}$ into an inner bremsstrahlung part that diverges for low photon momenta and a structure dependent part. We find

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{T}_{\mu\nu\rho}^{\text{IB}} &= \frac{i}{\sqrt{2} M_K} \left[B_T(t) (g_{\mu\nu} p'_\rho - g_{\mu\rho} p'_\nu) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(\frac{p_\mu}{pq} B_T(W^2) + \frac{W_\mu}{qW} \Delta B_T \right) (W_\nu p'_\rho - p'_\nu W_\rho) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.8})$$

with $\Delta B_T = B_T(t) - B_T(W^2)$, and (see also Ref. [30])

$$\begin{aligned} -i \hat{T}_{\mu\nu\rho}^{\text{SD}} &= B_1 [p'_\mu (q_\nu W_\rho - W_\nu q_\rho) - p' q (g_{\mu\nu} W_\rho - g_{\mu\rho} W_\nu)] \\ &\quad + B_2 [p'_\mu (q_\nu p'_\rho - p'_\nu q_\rho) - p' q (g_{\mu\nu} p'_\rho - g_{\mu\rho} p'_\nu)] \\ &\quad + B_3 (qW p'_\mu - p' q W_\mu) (p'_\nu W_\rho - W_\nu p'_\rho) \\ &\quad + B_4 [W_\mu (q_\nu W_\rho - W_\nu q_\rho) \\ &\quad \quad - qW (g_{\mu\nu} W_\rho - g_{\mu\rho} W_\nu)] \\ &\quad + B_5 [W_\mu (q_\nu p'_\rho - p'_\nu q_\rho) - qW (g_{\mu\nu} p'_\rho - g_{\mu\rho} p'_\nu)] \\ &\quad + B_6 [g_{\mu\nu} q_\rho - g_{\mu\rho} q_\nu]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.9})$$

Little is known about the form factor B_T and the structure functions B_i . In Ref. [36] B_T is estimated to be constant and of the order of one; this estimate was roughly confirmed in a lattice calculation [37]. In our analysis we will use $B_T(t) = 1$. As we know nothing about the B_i we will set them to zero.

C Kinematical factors in squared matrix elements

In this section we quote explicit expressions for the kinematical factors that appear in the T -odd parts of the squared matrix elements (18) and (39), which were obtained using FORM [38]. These depend on scalar products of the external momenta that we abbreviate as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} pp' &= a, & pq &= b, & pp_\ell &= c, & pp_\nu &= d, \\ p'q &= e, & p'p_\ell &= f, & p'p_\nu &= g, & p_\ell q &= h, \\ p_\nu q &= j, & p_\ell p_\nu &= k, & pW &= l, & p'W &= m, \\ qW &= n, & M_\pi^2 &= r_\pi, & m_\ell^2 &= r_\ell. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.1})$$

In this appendix, all quantities are for simplicity given in units of M_K , i.e. we set $M_K = 1$. In addition, we will use $\omega = M_K^2 - W^2 = 1 - 2k - r_\ell$ for the inverse kaon propagator. We split the normalized squared matrix elements into a T -even and a T -odd part,

$$\mathcal{N}^{-1} \sum_{\text{spins}} |T|^2 = |T|_{\text{even}}^2 + \xi |T|_{\text{odd}}^2. \quad (\text{C.2})$$

C.1 Hadronic loops

The T -odd part of (C.2) (see also (18)) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} |T|_{\text{odd}}^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^4 \left[\left(d_i f_+(t) + e_i \delta f_+ + d_i^{II} f_1(t) + e_i^{II} \delta f_1 \right) \text{Im}\{V_i\} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(d_i^5 f_+(t) + e_i^5 \delta f_+ + d_i^{II5} f_1(t) + e_i^{II5} \delta f_1 \right) \text{Im}\{A_i\} \right] \\ &\quad + \mathcal{O}(V_i^2, A_i^2, V_i A_i). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.3})$$

We write $d_i = \hat{d}_i \bar{d}_i$ etc. with the prefactors $\hat{d}_i, \hat{e}_i, \dots$ given in Table 5. Note that those multiplying $f_0(t), \delta f_0$ and

Table 5. Prefactors that multiply \bar{d}_i, \bar{e}_i etc.

\hat{d}_1	$4/(bh)$	\tilde{d}_1^5	$4/(bh)$			\hat{d}_1^{II5}	$2r_\ell/(bh)$
\hat{d}_2	$4/(bh)$	\tilde{d}_2^5	$4/(bh)$			\hat{d}_2^{II5}	$2r_\ell/b$
\hat{d}_3	$2r_\ell/h$	\tilde{d}_3^5	$2r_\ell/(\omega h)$	\hat{d}_3^{II}	r_ℓ/h	\hat{d}_3^{II5}	$r_\ell/(\omega h)$
\hat{d}_4	$2/h$	\tilde{d}_4^5	$2/h$	\hat{d}_4^{II}	r_ℓ/h	\hat{d}_4^{II5}	r_ℓ/h
\hat{e}_1	$4/b$	\tilde{e}_1^5	$4/b$			\hat{e}_1^{II5}	$2r_\ell/b$
\hat{e}_2	$4/b$	\tilde{e}_2^5	$4/b$			\hat{e}_2^{II5}	$2r_\ell/b$

$\text{Im}\{V_3\}$, $\text{Im}\{A_3\}$ are proportional to r_ℓ and can be neglected in the electron channel. The non-vanishing coefficients turn out to be

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{d}_1 &= b(f+2h) + h(l-n-1) , \\
\bar{d}_2 &= h(n-l-b) + b(k+r_\ell) , \quad \bar{d}_3 = e , \\
\bar{d}_4 &= 2g(n-b) + nr_\pi , \\
\bar{d}_1^5 &= (f-g)h - bf , \\
\bar{d}_2^5 &= (f-g)h + b(h+k) , \quad \bar{d}_3^5 = e - 2g , \\
\bar{d}_4^5 &= -4k^2 - 2kr_\ell - 4gk - 2nk + 2k - nr_\ell + n \\
&\quad - 2(b+f)(g+n+2k) - 2fg , \\
\bar{d}_3^{II} &= n , \quad \bar{d}_1^{II5} = h - b , \quad \bar{d}_3^{II5} = -(n+2k) , \\
\bar{d}_4^{II} &= e , \quad \bar{d}_2^{II5} = 1 , \quad \bar{d}_4^{II5} = -(e+2g) , \\
\bar{e}_1 &= -b(f+g+2n) - n(l-n-1) , \\
\bar{e}_2 &= n(l-n) - b(2k+r_\ell) , \\
\bar{e}_1^5 &= e(f-g) , \quad \bar{e}_1^{II5} = e , \\
\bar{e}_2^5 &= n(g-f) , \quad \bar{e}_2^{II5} = -n .
\end{aligned} \tag{C.4}$$

C.2 Beyond the standard model

Here we show the explicit expressions for the factors C_v , C_a , C_s , C_p , and C_t that appear in the squared matrix element (39). We do not consider the parts of C_i that are quadratic in structure dependent terms. We have checked numerically that neglecting these terms does not change the final results by more than a couple of percent at most.

Vector and axial vector interaction. $C_v = C_a$ is decomposed according to

$$\begin{aligned}
C_v = C_a &= \frac{1}{bh} \sum_{i=1}^4 \left[\alpha_+^{(i)} f_+(t) + \tilde{\alpha}_+^{(i)} \delta f_+ \right. \\
&\quad \left. + r_\ell \left(\alpha_1^{(i)} f_1(t) + \tilde{\alpha}_1^{(i)} \delta f_1 \right) \right] \text{Re}\{A_i\} ,
\end{aligned} \tag{C.5}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_+^{(1)} &= 4[bf + (g-f)h] , \\
\alpha_+^{(2)} &= -4[(f-g)h + b(h+k)] , \\
\alpha_+^{(3)} &= 2b(2g-e)r_\ell/\omega , \\
\alpha_+^{(4)} &= 2b[-n-2k+4gk+2nk+4k^2+2b(g+2k+n) \\
&\quad + 2f(2g+2k+n) + (2k+n)r_\ell] , \\
\alpha_1^{(1)} &= 2(b-h) , \quad \alpha_1^{(2)} = -2h , \\
\alpha_1^{(3)} &= b(2k+n)/\omega , \quad \alpha_1^{(4)} = b(e+2g) , \\
\tilde{\alpha}_+^{(1)} &= -4eh(f-g) , \quad \tilde{\alpha}_+^{(2)} = 4hn(f-g) , \\
\tilde{\alpha}_1^{(1)} &= -2eh , \quad \tilde{\alpha}_1^{(2)} = 2hn .
\end{aligned} \tag{C.6}$$

In terms of powers of photon momenta q , $C_v = C_a$ has to be of $\mathcal{O}(q^{-1})$, as it indeed proves to be according to (C.5), (C.6): it arises as an IB-SD interference contribution to $\xi|T|_{\text{odd}}^2$, where ξ itself is of $\mathcal{O}(q)$.

Scalar interaction. We write C_s in the form

$$\begin{aligned}
C_s &= \frac{m_\ell}{m_u - m_s} \frac{1}{bh} \left\{ \left[\sigma_+(f_+(t) \delta f_0 - f_0(t) \delta f_+) \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \sigma_1(f_1(t) \delta f_0 - f_0(t) \delta f_1) \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \sum_{i=1}^4 \left(f_0(t) (\sigma_V^{(i)} \text{Re}\{V_i\} + \sigma_A^{(i)} \text{Re}\{A_i\}) \right. \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. \left. + \delta f_0 \tilde{\sigma}_A^{(i)} \text{Re}\{A_i\} \right) \right] (1 - r_\pi) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \left[\sigma_S^{(+)} f_+(t) + \sigma_S^{(1)} f_1(t) \right] \text{Re}\{S\} \right\} ,
\end{aligned} \tag{C.7}$$

where the non-vanishing coefficients are given by

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma_+ &= 2e , \quad \sigma_1 = n , \\
\sigma_V^{(3)} &= bn , \quad \sigma_V^{(4)} = be , \\
\sigma_A^{(1)} &= -2(b-h) , \quad \sigma_A^{(2)} = 2h , \\
\sigma_A^{(3)} &= -b(2k+n)/\omega , \quad \sigma_A^{(4)} = -b(e+2g) , \\
\tilde{\sigma}_A^{(1)} &= 2eh , \quad \tilde{\sigma}_A^{(2)} = -2hn , \\
\sigma_S^{(+)} &= -2be , \quad \sigma_S^{(1)} = -bn .
\end{aligned} \tag{C.8}$$

We find from (C.7), (C.8) that the leading contribution to C_s in the soft photon limit is again of $\mathcal{O}(q^{-1})$, although there are IB-IB interference terms. A stronger divergence in these is forbidden by the requirement that a ξ -odd infrared singularity has to be absent, therefore the purely bremsstrahlung contributions to the asymmetries (42) are not bigger (or indeed numerically a bit smaller) than those proportional to the axial structure functions. Coefficients of $\text{Re}\{V_i\}$ and $\text{Re}\{S\}$ are suppressed by an additional power of q .

Pseudoscalar interaction. We decompose C_p in the form

$$C_p = \frac{m_\ell}{m_u + m_s} \frac{1}{h} \left[\pi_+ f_+(t) + \pi_1 f_1(t) \right] \text{Re}\{P\}, \quad (\text{C.9})$$

where

$$\pi_+ = 2(e - 2g), \quad \pi_1 = -(2k + n). \quad (\text{C.10})$$

Tensor interaction. We set $B_T = 1$ and disregard structure dependent tensor terms. We then find

$$C_t = \frac{m_\ell}{bh} \left[\theta_+ f_+(t) + \tilde{\theta}_+ \delta f_+ + \theta_1 f_1(t) + \tilde{\theta}_1 \delta f_1 + \sum_{i=1}^4 \left(\theta_V^{(i)} \text{Re}\{V_i\} + \theta_A^{(i)} \text{Re}\{A_i\} \right) \right], \quad (\text{C.11})$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_+ &= 4e, \quad \tilde{\theta}_+ = 4[b(b+m) - n(1-l)], \\ \theta_1 &= 2n, \quad \tilde{\theta}_1 = 2[n(e+f-g) + (n-b)r_\ell], \\ \theta_V^{(1)} &= 4[bf + h(2b+l-n-1)], \\ \theta_V^{(2)} &= 4[b(k+r_\ell) - h(b+l-n)], \\ \theta_V^{(3)} &= 2b[n(g+n-f-b) + (b-n)r_\ell], \\ \theta_V^{(4)} &= 2b[n(1-l) - b(b+m)], \\ \theta_A^{(1)} &= 4b(b-g-n), \quad \theta_A^{(2)} = 4bk, \\ \theta_A^{(3)} &= 2b[(n+2k)(e+f-g) + (b-n-2g)r_\ell]/\omega, \\ \theta_A^{(4)} &= 2b[b(b+f-g-4(n+k)) + n(1-3f-g+n) \\ &\quad - 2mg + 2k(1-2m-n-2k) - (n+2k)r_\ell]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.12})$$

As for the scalar interaction, both IB-IB and IB-SD interference terms show a leading behavior $\propto 1/q$ in the soft photon limit; here, however, the IB-IB terms turn out to be numerically dominant.

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